

REMARKS

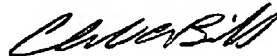
This application was originally filed on 22 January 2002 with nineteen claims, two of which were written in independent form. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and Claims 5 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-19 currently are pending in this application. No claims have been allowed.

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,373,622 to Kosaka. Claims 2-4 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka. Claims 5-7 and 16-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of Claim 5. Claim 9 has been amended to include limitations of Claim 16. Claims 1 and 9 should be deemed allowable for that reason. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend from Claim 1 and should be deemed allowable for that reason and on their own merits. Claims 10-15 and 17-19 depend from Claim 9 and should be deemed allowable for that reason and on their own merits.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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